

Gc
929.2
H74401h
no.1
1924
1832236

M. L.

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

1

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 01365 8361

cardinal

Glimpses into the Holton Family History

A Paper Read by
Mr. Moses Whicher Mann
of West Medford

^{1st.}
at the First Reunion of the
Holton Family Association

Old Homestead, Mt. Hermon, Mass.

August 29, 1924

Together with
A Narrative of the Origin of the Association
and the Minutes of the First Reunion



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2019

<https://archive.org/details/bulletinno100unse>

Glimpses into the Holton Family History

by Moses Whicher Mann

EDITORIAL NOTE—Mr. Mann, whose home is in West Medford, Mass. is connected with the Holton Family through his marriage, in 1870, to Elizabeth Clapp Holton, the daughter of Samuel Socrates Holton of Winchester, Mass. For many years he has been a careful and enthusiastic student of Colonial History and of American Genealogy. He took special interest in preparing the following article, concerning Deacon William Holton, of Northampton, and his descendents, for the first Family Reunion.

While here at the Northfield anniversary last year I heard it mentioned that little or nothing was said of William Holton, who was one of the committee that promoted Northfield's first settlement.

I find in Northfield history that on "February 9th, 1688, the Proprietors of Northfield voted to give to each of their Honored Committee, five acres of interval land in the Three Little Meadows, this land to pay them for their cost, labor and pains about the settling of Northfield." William Holton was then seventy-seven years old.

Now today, as the "Holton Family Tree" has grown to such an extent, will you allow, not one of the "twigs" or "branches", but a scion, a sort of wild olive grafted into the old tree; to say a few words about the original bole, William Holton, born in England in 1611.

I find his name in a list of "Persons of Quality, Emigrants, Religious Exiles, Political Rebels, Serving-Men sold for a term of years, apprentices, Children stolen, maidens prest and others, who went to American Plantations 1600 to 1700."

From which class shall we select him?

But the record of the custom-house at Ipswich in England, signed by Edward Mann, Comptroller, tells us that he took passage in the good ship FRANCIS, John Cutting, Master, for America in the last of April, 1634; that he was then twenty-three years of age. There were twelve married men and their wives, twenty single men, and forty children 15 years and younger, enumerated as passengers, among whom was one MARY WINCHE, age 15. All above that age took the oath of allegiance to his majesty before starting for the new world. William's name, spelled Haulton, was second on the list, and he was one of the single men. It took two months to cross the Atlantic then, but the FRANCIS landed her passengers at Charlestown,—then settled but four years,—while Boston across the river was less than four, and Newton, up stream, younger still.

Another ship, the GRIFFIN, in 1634 brought to Boston from Lincolnshire, "a gentleman of good estate and reputation" William Hutchinson and his wife Anne. Anne Hutchinson was the woman of the day in Boston in 1635-6, a sort of spiritual censor of the reverend clergy, and the upheaval she made in Boston extended across the Charles river

into Newton. While it was at its height there was an emigration of a hundred people including two of the ministers, and William Holton was one of the company. They went to the QUOXOXTICOTT to find more room for settlement 125 miles away.

Picture in your minds, if you can, the motley procession, of 150 cattle (their commissary department) and their swine, and the horse-litter that carried the minister's invalid wife. They couldn't carry as much furniture as the MAYFLOWER is said to have carried and there was no road only the Indian trail over which they plodded in single file for a fortnight thro' an unknown land thru' the little settlement made the year before,—to where they settled another New Town, that came to be called Hartford, for 17 years William Holton's pioneer home. Tell us if you can of his dwelling (for he had a home lot and a share in the commons): tell us when and where he married Mary,—was she the Mary Winche who came over with him? And tell us of the four daughters, Sarah, Mary, Ruth and Rachel, and the four sons John, Samuel, William and Thomas born to them in that pioneer home. Tell us what his occupation was in 1634 (in old England) and be sure he was not of the *sons of rest* in the new. At the age of 42, in May, 1653, his pioneering spirit led him with some thirty others, up the river to Nonotuck which they bought of the Indians and there settled Northampton. There he became at once one of the leading men, and his part in their doings are matters of recorded history, serving in various capacities in the records there are nearly fifty references to him. In bringing the civilization of the white man into the Indian's country, he repeated the experiences of Hartford. He was the first named of the committee to build the first meeting house, 26 x 18—9 feet high, of SAWIN-TIMBER, a luxury not to be had in their dwellings; and also the second Church Building in 1661, forty-two feet square costing one hundred fifty pounds sterling. He was first messenger to, and later deputy to the General Court of Boston: "Commissioner to end small cause" i. e. Trial justice, selectman, deacon of the church, and was paid five pounds for part of the minister's dyet. (those old ministers were great eaters and smokers too). He also "took excess of liquor coming to town" including "Sider" before the general court.

On Nov. 15, 1655 his daughter, Mary, was married to David Burt, the first wedding in Northampton. Note that this was just 21 years from his coming overseas, so William Holton or his daughter, or both, married young. But in 1675, Mar. 14 (25 years after the settlement) when he was 65 years old, the Indians attacked Northampton, killed his son Thomas (youngest and unmarried) and burned William's dwelling which was within the palisade.

Right here we may do well to let our speculations run out a little in relation to William Holton's dwelling and circumstances. His daughters and sons John and Samuel had not home lots granted them till after the Indian attack. Was William Holton's house his first in Northampton, which must have been built of logs, or had he built a newer one in the 23 years? Why were the grants of home lots to his sons instead of to him, who had suffered the loss? Or had he got the pioneering fever of going on to the new settlement of Northfield?

The old meeting house of SAWEN-TIMBER had given place to the newer one, fifteen years before. If we wish to know how the second looked, go to Hingham, Mass., and see the only one left, of its kind in Massachusetts, and still in use, built in 1680. Doubtless William Holton,

as one of the leading men of Northampton, had rebuilt his. His son William, Nov. 22, 1676, six months after the attack, married Sarah Marshfield.

But William Holton lived in another time of trouble than that of Indian attack and fire,—there was some sumptuary laws enacted in 1675 and only 14 days after the Indian trouble, twenty-three persons were up before the court at Northampton for wearing silk in a flaunting manner and for long hair. His son William 2 was one of the latter; and his son Samuel's wife (she was the widow Rossiter and married Samuel Holton June 21, 1673, three years before). She must have been a gay young widow "who having offended formerly and not reforming is fined 10 s. She was charged with "wearing silk hoods and scarfs in a flouting manner." Fortunately he was not commissioner to end small causes at that time! But at another time he, with two others had to hear the prosecution in a slander trial, when a prominent town's woman was accused of being a witch, and the accusers were ordered to retract, or pay a fine of ten pounds sterling.

He lived in a time when it was not wise to talk about the minister, and when witchcraft was a prevailing delusion. Yet he seems to have carried a level head, thro' it all. He was for a time serjeant in the military force of the town, and deacon in the church. His two sons-in-law, David Burt and John King, were prominent in civil affairs. He had 13 grandchildren in each of those families, (Mary's and Sarah's children.) How many Ruth, who married Thomas Lyman, and Rachel, who married Thomas Strong, had we cannot tell. Neither can we tell if Samuel (whose name on the baptismal record at Hartford, is spelled Sam-i-well) and his flaunting silk widow Rossiter added any grandchildren as branches to the family tree, of William 1. William 2, he of the long hair and Sarah Marshfield had a daughter, Mary (3) July 26, 1678, and of her an enlightening incident adds to our knowledge of that long ago time. Joseph Hawley, whose business took him to Boston at times, had in his memorandum of things to get and do,—“get a place for Mary Holton.” Whether successful or no, she married October 25, Ebenezer Strong. William Holton's youngest son, Thomas killed by the Indians, was unmarried, and the other son, John 2, had four sons and three daughters which makes a known total of thirty-eight grandchildren of William Holton as above noted;—the returns are not all in.

One thing we must note of John 2, which bears somewhat upon his age which Northfield geneology omits—it is found in the record of the first court held in Northampton, March 26, 1661 and reads thus: “It being presented to the Co'te that this winter past John Holton killed a wolf uppon the River between Northampton and New Towne, the River being frozen: the Co'te determined that the said Two Townes should pay 10 s. apiece to Goodman Holton for his son yt killed ye wolf.” John 2 Holton was probably a boy of 16 that “winter past” and earned the 20 s. William Holton's son-in-law, Joseph Baker (Ruth's first husband) was killed by the Indians six months prior to their attack on Northampton. He was bereft of two of his Burt grandchildren by distressing circumstances. David when but four years old trodden by cattle under a cart, 1660. A second David, son of Mary, when 21 was captured by Indians at Schenectady, carried away, and never returned, and another, her youngest, John, born 1682, when 27 years old, was hopelessly lost in the forests of southern Vermont. Does not this read like a tragedy?

Of his service in the General Court of Boston, of his gift to Harvard College, and various other matters, time forbids my mention, but he was interested in the settlement of Northfield, and three of his grandchildren, sons of John, became settlers in the permanent occupation.

Of Mary, his wife, we find but little mention. She was with him, and Mary and Sary, daughters, signers of the church covenant. The fact that the second name appears as Sary, not Sarah, and that both daughters were married the same day Nov. 18, 1656 with the proximity in date of the baptism of Sam-i-well 2—and the minority of John 2—in 1661, lead one to think that Mary and Sary were twins,—the first branch or branches on the Holton tree,—a custom repeated in the later years, **as** the tree grew.

John Elmer complained to the Court against Goodwife Holton Mary, wife of William 1 for charging him the said John, with to have a stolen axe. This action was taken up amongst themselves before any sentence passed upon it.

You will notice that at various times William and Mary his wife, are called "Goodman and Goodwife," the title "Mister" being applied to ministers.

William Holton passed away in 1691 on August 12, at the age of 80 years, and Mary but little later, Nov. 16. Probably both were taken by the fever which raged in those river towns that year. Theirs must have been eventful lives, pioneers in three towns and contemplating a fourth in Northfield.

William Holton was colonist under the charter of King Charles 1,—was he one of the political rebels that left England? He was twenty-three at his emigration, he lived through the (English) stormy times of Charles I, the Protectorate of Cromwell, Charles II, and James II. A brighter day had dawned for England ere his death in the accession of William and Mary.

The Holy Bible had just been translated when William Holton was born, but Religious liberty was unknown. What was his education and young life in England? and what his acquirements when he started on the ocean voyage? What of his seventeen years beside the Connecticut river, where that company in which he came, found not a resting place, but one to strive with the earth, for sustenance, and the growing forest trees from which to fashion their shelter from the winds and storms of New England winter. In those years few accessions came to them from without, but their families grew, and his twin daughters and their husbands Burt and King, began with father and mother, William and Mary, the settlement of Northampton. Think of them under the conditions and surroundings of their time, the part they took, the way they lived, and worked, and what they accomplished. Remember that William Holton's life work was one of a loyal British subject, and ended a century before the American government was well established. Think of the numerous branches upon the Holton Family tree, the ten generations that now trace descent from him,—numerous Holtons that have come to bear the name, and the numerous Holtons that have taken other names, and you will surely think that their line has gone out into all the earth.

Our grandson William Holton Mann, from Hudson Valley visited us recently. He came by auto-car over the Mohawk Trail, but William Holton went over the Mohawk trail in 1636 in old fashion Indian way and only lived by hard work.

John Holton 2, had Mary, Abagail, Joshua 3 and Thomas 3 (who was killed by Indians in 1723) Eleazer 3, and William 3,—these three sons were among the permanent settlers of Northfield. Eleazer 3 was ten years town clerk, and beat the drum to call the settlers to worship on Sunday, but removed to end his days back in Conn.

William 3 was notably a weaver, as was his uncle William 2 and both had apprentices learning the trade. (Joshua 3 died before 1714.) Eleazer, William and Thomas, John 2 Holton's children, Samuel Holton and the rest of the heirs of Deacon William Holton appear in the first tax list of the town of Northfield 1717.

William 3 (1679-1755) was a scout in the time of Father Rasle's war, and in 1731 had his share in the Choice Lots on Feb. 11, which was the first action on the undivided lands. Entitled according to his tax of previous year to 162 acres, he made his choice of one half according to the prescribed form, i. e. "81 acres at the north end of Bennett's hill which eventually led to the location of the Holton family in that vicinity" see pages 219-221, Northfield History. And again in 1753, two years before his death he had land in the fourth division and also his sons William 4, and John 4. William 4 (1709-1798) (—they had long lives in those days) when about 24 married Bertha— —, and added quite a lot to the family tree. For a time it looked as if the Holton name might not continue. The first six branches were Dorothy, Mercy, Violet, Azubah, Abagail, Bethia, and later three sons Lemuel 5, William 5, Nathan 5. William 5, removed,—we have no account of him but have of his brothers and will follow Lemuel 5.

The shot heard round the world had been fired at Lexington, and Concord, and the more bloody strife at Bunker Hill, and the British had gone from Boston the next Spring when Lemuel 5 Holton at the age of 27 brought his bride of 16, Lydia Shattuck, from Petersham to this Holton homestead. Their intentions were recorded May 31, 1776 so theirs was a June wedding and Lemuel was still a subject of Georgius Tertius as it was a month before our first Independence Day. Their first three children, Luther 6, Lucy 6, and Abel 6, were sons and daughters of the Revolution. Lemuel, Ezra and Calvin came after the war was ended, and before our constitutional government was begun. But Lemuel's family life here was but 10½ years, ending in the midst of the Shay's rebellion in Oct. 1786. He was one of this town's Committee of safety, Selectman, and one of those who selected the grave yard at the foot of the hill, where he was soon to be buried. The Church records say of him "A worthy and valuable man."

Of the fortunes of his young widow of 26 and of his youngest children I can say but little, save that she soon married Oliver Smith who preceded Lemuel as Selectman. Three of their children appear in the Northfield genealogy but she had seven Smiths, and two more after her third marriage of Phillips name. Adding the five of the two widowers' children, made a brood of twenty for Lydia (Shattuck) Holton Smith Phillips to mother and care for.

Nathan 5 the younger brother of Lemuel, was a soldier in the Revolution and about 1780 married Hannah Ware and lived in the old Holton home of his grandfather, which part of the homestead was with other farms annexed to Gill when that town was incorporated in 1795. Note here that both William 5 and Nathan 5 soon after the death of their father William 4 (Captain William) moved to Brattleborough with two married and two unmarried sisters, leaving an unmarried Aunt, Azubah, and Nathan's son Dorastus 6 and his older brother Timothy on the old home place that came to be known as the "Ark"—the "old ark"—or the "old Shell". This was on the slope of Grass Hill, up the hill from the "Pines" now of Harry Holton.

Luther 6 Holton was but 9 years old when his father Lemuel 5 died. In 1801, when 24, he brought Betsy Hodges of Bernardston to be mistress of this Holton home. His grandfather William 4 had died three years before, but whether his father's second wife (the widow Mary Scott) was still living we may not know, as his mother Lydia Holton Smith left Northfield for Vermont eight years before and possibly the Holton home earlier than the query arises, who brought up Luther and his sister Lucy and his brothers Abel and Lemuel, and who was the house-mother here in those intervening years? She may have been Grandmother Mary, or grand aunt Azubah, commonly called "Aunt Buby" whose grave stone of slate is in yonder cemetery. Ezra 6, the Holton baby when his father Lemuel 5 died, and the posthumous Calvin, went to Vermont with their mother and were brought up with their half brothers and sisters Smith. We find no trace of Calvin 6, other than that on page 462 of History of Northfield, but Ezra 6 married Anna Phillips, his mother's latest step daughter and was the father Hon. Luther Hamilton Holton, M. P. of Canada,—who wrote that he never saw his grandmother Lydia Shattuck Holton Smith Phillips, but heard much of her, and that she lived to a great age, with her Smith children and died in New York state.

Lemuel 5 Holton died in 1786. The direct tax list of 1798 shows this homestead as Estate of Lemuel Holton, occupied by or in possession of Luther.

Of his father it was said he was a worthy and valuable man. What shall we say of him and of his helpmeet, Betsy (Hodges) Holton whose oil portrait (painted in 1842 while visiting her son Samuel in Boston) hangs in her part of the old home? We can say no less of them and of the thirteen branches of the Holton Family Tree. They were the twins George Lucius and Charles Lewis, Fanny, Betsy, Luther, Martha and Mary, Calvin, Cyrus, Frederick, Samuel Soerates, another Charles Lewis (to carry on the name of the brother recently deceased) and Lemuel, who was twelve years old when his father Luther 6 died in 1835. Then the four oldest had married and established homes and Calvin 7 had gone west, leaving Cyrus 7 to succeed his father as Farmer Holton on the homestead with his mother who lived here ten years longer.

Cyrus 7 and Amanda (Brown) Holton added three branches Eleanor 8, Mary 8,—better known as Minnie,—and Henry our "graciously" genial host of today. Henry 8 and Mary (Alexander) Holton extend the tree in the family name of Theodore Roosevelt 9 and Henry 9 Holton, their two sons.

The Holton Family Association

At the 250 Anniversary of the founding of Northfield in 1923 following a suggestion and request of Mrs. Louise F. Packer of Hartford, Conn., Mrs. Minnie Holton Callender invited as many of the Holton Cousins as was possible to get together to meet her at the Community Picnic on the High School Grounds and talk over the advisability of starting an Association of the Descendents of Deacon William Holton. It was decided to try and see what could be done. The following committee of arrangements were appointed, Rev. C. Leonard Holton of Raynham Chairman, Mrs. Louise F. Packer of Hartford, Mr. A. G. Moody, East Northfield, Rev. Charles S. Holton, of Newburyport, Mr. David W. Mann, Rev. Horace F. Holton Brockton, Mrs. Minnie Holton Callender, Mt. Hermon, Secretary, Mr. Henry C. Holton, Treasurer.

Under the direction of this committee the call for the First Reunion of the Family was sent out for August 29, 1924.

It was held at the Old Holton Homestead at Mt. Hermon and it was attended by about 200 of the Holton Descendents. On the evening of the 23rd, twenty-five of the Family met for a lawn supper with Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Holton and the Secretary Mrs. Callender as host and hostesses. At 10 o'clock the following morning the Family began to gather. It was an ideal summer day perfect for such an occasion. After an enjoyable morning spent in getting acquainted and after a group photograph had been taken, all gathered about the dinner table which had been arranged in the form of a hollow square under the maples at the east of the house. A delicious home cooked dinner was served by the committee of which Mrs. Lucy Holton Folstead of Mt. Hermon was Chairman. Mrs. Maude Phillips Walker led in the singing of Auld Lang Syne, and the Chairman C. Leonard Holton said grace. The happy Family dined to it's hearts content on Chicken Salad, Tomatoes, Sweet Corn, Nuts, Cake, Ice Cream, for which a hearty vote of thanks was given to the efficient dinner committee.

Dinner was followed by the singing of "Hurrah for the Holton Homestead" written by the Secretary for this and similar occasions. A quartet entertained with vocal selections, and Mrs. Callender gave the history of her branch of the Family in original verse. Rev. C. Leonard Holton concluded the first part of the program with appropriate remarks on the sensations of pride and pleasure experienced by all those present in the common conscienceness of membership in a clan of children of great ancestors. He then withdrew in favor of his brother Rev. Horace F. Holton of Brockton, Chairman of sub-committee on program. After a few introductory remarks he announced a song by Mrs. James Slade of Quinecy, Mass. She wore an old bonnet which her great, great grandmother Eleeta Holton formally wore on the same premises.

Mr. Moses Mann of West Medford then gave the address of the day which was embodied in a carefully prepared paper giving historical glimpses of Deacon William Holton and his descendents through 10 generations. It was unanimously voted that this excellent and informing paper should be preserved in printed form.

The Secretary then quoted from letters received from distant members of the clan, and told of interesting incidents which had accrued during the preparations for the Reunion. She also read some puns on the Family names taken from a letter sent by Cousin Millie Anderson of Phoenix, Arizona, daughter of Calvin Holton (son of Luther).

Mrs. Leslie Ellis told of a similar Reunion being held by the Western members at the home of Mrs. Jennie Holton Pearson, in Pasadena, Cal. and it was unanimously voted to send greetings to them by telegraph.

Mrs. Slade entertained with another song. Mrs. Louise F. Packer gave amusing and interesting reminiscences, with a lively sketch of her trip from Maine to Northfield to attend the Reunion.

A business meeting concluded the program. After thanking the committee for its efforts in arranging so successful a Reunion, it was voted to continue the present Committee and instruct them to proceed with plans for a permanent organization, which should be continued at least for the rest of the present generation.

A vote of thanks was extended to the authorities of the Mt. Hermon School for their hospitality in opening some of their rooms for members of the Family who had found it necessary to remain over night. A helpful suggestion was made by Mrs. Cram of Colrain that each branch of the Family should appoint one of its members to assist in collecting historical data.

During the meeting telegrams, greetings and good wishes were received by the following:—Mr. Holton Learmont of Montreal, Mr. Starling Holton of New York, Mrs. Maurice Holton of Manchester, N. H., Mrs. Amanda Holton Lunberg Camp Tenderfoot, Wis., Mrs. Betsey Holton Chesley wrote her greetings from Europe, and Mrs. Leola Holton Lant of Burlington, Vt., sent a special delivery letter.

Interesting letters were received from Mrs. Julia Holton Ferris, Carthage, Ill., Rev. Edward P. Holton, India, Mrs. Elizabeth Moody Washburn, Racine, Wis., and Mr. Frank Holton, Stockton, Arizona.

Respectfully submitted

Mrs. Minnie Holton Callender.

A second reunion of the family was held, at the call of the Continuation Committee on Sept. 4, 1925 at the Old Homestead. There were 106 members present. At this time it was voted that a permanent organization be founded under the name of The Holton Family Association and the Constitution and By-Laws were adopted. The Family met at the Hotel Northfield, in East Northfield, after a reception at the Old Homestead in the Morning, here an excellent dinner was served, followed by an interesting program. The Association adjourned to meet for the next first bi-ennial Reunion in 1927.

THE HOLTON FAMILY ASSOCIATION THIRD REUNION

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1927

Final Announcement—Please Take Notice.

PROGRAM

10;00 a.m. At the Holton Homestead, Mount Hermon, Mass.
Business Meeting, election of officers, and all other business that may come before the meeting.

12;00 Noon. At the Hotel Northfield, East Northfield, Mass.
Registration and Reception. Every one is asked to get acquainted with every one else.

12;45 Noon. Family Photograph in front of the Hotel.

1;00 p.m. Family Dinner. Tickets, \$1.00. This will be a regular Hotel Dinner, served by the management of the Hotel under special arrangements with the Association.

2;00 p.m. Post Prandial on the Hotel Veranda.
Music, singing, special features, short addresses, Memorials, concluding with "A Toast to William Holton."

N. B. Those who bring picnic lunch will please be sure to attend the Registration and Reception at the hotel in the morning, also to remember that they are expected to be present to pose for their picture.

N. B. Those desiring entertainment over night should communicate directly with the managements of the hotels, either The Northfield, East Northfield, or the Elms, Northfield, Mass. The Secretary also will be glad to co-operate, so far as she is able, in securing accommodations at reasonable prices.

OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE, RESERVATION FOR THE DINNER MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE, AND BEFORE AUG. 30th.

A Post Card is enclosed for your convenience in making your reply. Please use it, whether you are coming or not. Be sure to state how many places you wish reserved for you at the dinner.

Interest in the Association is steadily growing. Indications are that this will be the best reunion which we have had. You will find accompanying this announcement a historical paper of great interest. We hope you will read it and preserve it for future reference.

Yours in behalf of the Holton Family Association,
Minnie Holton Callender,
Horace F. Holton, Program Committee.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE SECRETARY,
MRS. MINNIE HOLTON CALLENDER, MOUNT HERMON, MASS.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION, 1925-1927

* HONORARY PRESIDENT, Mrs. Henry Ernest Packer, Hartford, Conn.
PRESIDENT, Rev. C. Leonard Holton, Raynham, Mass.
VICE PRESIDENTS, Rev. Charles S. Holton, Newburyport, Mass.
Mrs. S. L. Elberfeld East Boston, Mass.

EX-COMMITTEE, Rev. Horace F. Holton, Brockton, Mass.
* Mrs. Henry C. Holton, Northfield, Mass.
Mr. Ernest C. Holton, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Mr. Perley Fay, Greenfield, Mass.

TREASURER, Mr. Nelson S. Elmer, Springfield, Mass.

AUDITOR, Mr. Charles D. Streeter, Mt. Hermon, Mass.

SECRETARY, HIS AND CUSTODIAN, Mrs. Minnie H. Callender

* Deceased

THE HOLTON FAMILY ASSOCIATION

(Descendents of Deacon William Holton - born 1611)

ELSIE F. PACKER, Secretary
200 B Sigourney Street
Hartford, Conn.

December 4, 1935

BULLETIN

Your Secretary is appreciative of the favorable comments on our first bulletin. Unless advised to the contrary future issues will be sent to the addresses we now have. Several pieces of mail matter have been returned marked "deceased"; had we been advised their names would have been added to those for whom a moment of silent prayer was offered at the last reunion.

News of the last reunion as reported to members and published in the newspapers, have secured us several new members; others have communicated with us as to the aims and purposes of the Association. Undoubtedly many of the latter will join us.

Miss Harriet Scofield, our historian, writes me that she is getting the first two generations of the Holtons (first two chapters of the genealogy) ready for printing or mimeographing.

This association is helpful in many ways, Miss Scofield tells me that she has been asked by an insurance company to verify the date of birth of one of our clan. In adjusting the Life Insurance claim there seemed to be some disagreement. The dates shown in her files, which had been collected by our former historian, Reverend Edward F. Holton, were accepted as final.

I wonder if you know that our former historian did an inestimable service to the Holton Family Association, when he found the records of the Holton Family, apparently lost even to their custodians, and copied them. These, according to Miss Scofield, will make the very best beginning in the world for an excellent family history.

A copy of Temple and Sheldon's History of Northfield has been given to the association by the descendants of Elizabeth Holton Marr, late of West Medford, Mass.

Sylvia Holton Bensley, M. D. (cousin Mrs. R. D.) of Chicago, Ill., was good enough, in a most welcome note to your President, to express her approval and encouragement of our undertakings, as well as to propose a new member. Our sincere thanks and appreciation to Cousin Sylvia.

Cousin Emma E. Holton of Elkhorn, Wisconsin, and her brother are 82 and 77 years young respectively, and in an interesting letter express hopes of attending our next reunion. May their hopes be realized with the assurance of a most hearty and cordial welcome. Our cousins of a tenderer age should take due notice, and resolve not to be outdone in determination and enthusiasm to make our reunions living and vibrant affairs.

Major Hiram B. Ferris, mentioned in our last bulletin, upon his return to Spokane, Washington, writes, "The acquaintances made on the pilgrimage to the early homes of my ancestors, with the Holton Cousins, will always remain among the brightest spots in my memory. It will last as long as I live." The memory and the pleasure were mutual, Major, and your letter recalls the following passage; "Few people have learned the art of collecting happy memories; they collect old china, prints and books - all good and pleasant but fragile and perishable. But happy memories are indestructible possessions which nothing can take from us," Isabel B. Rose, Red Blossoms.

The President hereby gratefully acknowledges these and many other encouraging and complimentary communications received from members.

The Chairman of the Genealogical Committee, Major Herbert M. Holton, has sent to the subscribing members of his committee a very comprehensive report of the 1935 Reunion. This included all reports, a list of the members of the committee and the 1640 map of Hartford, Connecticut, which shows the home site of William Holton (1).

The Colonial History of Hartford, in discussing the Pequot War says "There were eleven or twelve of Hartford's contingent in that war who are unidentified, and that undoubtedly their names are to be found among the young men who settled the South side plantation. The area, beginning at William Holton's corner and running back, was allocated in 1638, at the close of the Pequot War, perhaps in return for services rendered therein."

The ability of your officers to improve and enlarge the Association is dependent entirely upon your payment of the annual dues, which are but \$1.00 per annum for man and wife (either or both), and \$2.00 per annum for family, including either, or man and wife and all minor children.

Our treasurer is Nelson L. Elmer, 642 State St., Springfield, Mass.

Elsie F. Packer

Elsie F. Packer
Secretary

Correction: John Holton (2) of Northampton and Dedham married Abigail Fisher (not Edwards) of Dedham as stated in the November Bulletin.

THE HOLTON FAMILY ASSOCIATION

(Descendants of Deacon William Holton - born 1611)

ELSIE F. PACKER, Secretary
200 B Sigourney Street
Hartford, Conn.

September 1937

REUNION BULLETIN



THE NORTHFIELD
AND
CHATEAU
EAST NORTHFIELD, MASS.

The eighth biennial reunion of The Holton Family Association, was held at East Northfield, Mass., on September 3rd and 4th, 1937. On the evening of the 3rd, a reception and entertainment was held in the parlors of "The Northfield"

at 8 o'clock. Cousin Louise Moody Merrill, of Providence, R. I., entertained us with a very interesting lecture, illustrated by beautifully colored stereopticon slides.

Her subject "Eight weeks in the saddle in the Kentucky Mountains" was a recital of her own experiences there. A hearty round of applause greeted her efforts.

We are indebted to our cousin, A. Gordon Moody, for the humorous moments that followed. Mr. Roberts, of the Northfield Schools, entertained with amusing stories and anecdotes, and the roars of laughter that accompanied his remarks, need no further comments.

* * * * *

At the informal gathering that followed many old acquaintances were renewed, and new ones formed, until the hands of the clock reminded us that it was time to retire, and prepare for the busy day ahead of us on the morrow.

* * * * *

Saturday morning, the General Meeting was held at The Chateau (at the right in picture). The meeting was called to order by the President, at 10:30 o'clock, about 80 members being present.

Undoubtedly, the unseasonable and oppressive weather materially affected the attendance, but as the members arose and sang "America" numbers were soon forgotten. While still standing, the Invocation was delivered by the Rev. Charles Sumner Holton, of Newburyport.

* * * * *

The President then addressed the meeting, extending greetings to those present, following with some general remarks on accomplishments during his administration, as well as on some incompleeted projects, noteworthy among them the memorial stone to Deacon William Holton, in Northampton Cemetery.

At this point in the program he presented to the Association a Civil War flag, handed down to him by the widow of his ancestor, Francis H. Holton, of Akron, Ohio. Also, as his gift to the Association, the deed to the lot in Mount Hermon Cemetery, of approximately 2000 square feet, with granite markers at each of its four corners, enclosing the remains of Lemuel, Luther Sr. and Jr., with their wives and issue.

* * * * *

Miss Elsie F. Packer read the names of the members deceased since our last reunion. Rev. C. Leonard Holton moved a special tribute be paid to Mrs. Minnie Holton Callender in the form of a resolution in appreciation of her services as former Secretary of the Association, after which, he delivered a most impressive prayer for the dead.

* * * * *

Next in the order of business were the reports of the Secretary and Treasurer, and the Chairmen of the various committees. The Genealogical Committee will make a separate report to the membership, as a part of the important work they are undertaking.

Notwithstanding the desire of the President to terminate his term of office at this reunion, due to business pressure, the Nominating Committee brought in the following report, which was read to the members present.

"Your Committee in making its report would like to preface it with a brief comment. Due to the progressive policies inaugurated by our President during the past two years, with the full approval of his Executive Committee, the business of the Association has come to be an increasingly heavy burden to carry. Our President has been unsparing in the use of both time and money, and has given us much time that should have been spent in rest and recreation. He felt very strongly that another person should be found for the Presidency.

But the Nominating Committee was unanimously of the opinion that a change in leadership at the present time would be very unfortunate for the Association. We have, therefore, prevailed upon our President to accept the office for another term.

We take great pleasure in submitting for your consideration the following slate of Officers for the coming two years."

Signed:- Rev. Horace F. Holton, Chairman
George W. Holton
Mrs. Louise Moody Merrill.

The slate is as follows:-

President	Ernest H. Holton, Brooklyn, N. Y.
1st Vice-President	George Alanson Holton, Mt. Vernon, N. Y.
2nd Vice-President	Ambert G. Moody, East Northfield, Mass.
Secretary	Miss Elsie F. Packer, Hartford, Conn.
Treasurer	A. Gordon Moody, East Northfield, Mass.
Auditor	Nelson L. Elmer, Springfield, Mass.
Historian	Miss Harriet Scofield, Cleveland, Ohio
Executive Committee	Major Herbert M. Holton, New York, N. Y.
	George Wallace Holton, Hartford, Conn.
	Mrs. Ruth Sandstrom, New York, N. Y.
	Rev. Horace F. Holton, Brockton, Mass.

The Constitution provides that the President, two Vice-Presidents, the Secretary and Treasurer, together with FOUR others, shall constitute the Executive Committee.

* * * * *

Following the adjournment of the meeting, a sumptuous meal was served in the main dining room of the Northfield, where good fellowship prevailed. As many found it necessary to start for home at this point, the remainder, about forty in number, in a cavalcade of autos made the trip to Mt. Hermon Cemetery to inspect the work done on the family lot there.

* * * * *

The members of the Association are to be congratulated upon the retention of Miss Elsie Packer, as Secretary. It was her intention of giving up this office after many years of loyal and untiring service. The President sees no need of keeping the fact secret, that without her invaluable assistance, it would be impossible for him to continue. To her credit, be it known, that she most graciously consented to continue, having the affairs of the Association at heart. Three cheers for Elsie!

* * * * *

Under no circumstances can your President be accused of being a "politician", especially in view of such a report from a "hand-picked" Nominating Committee.

* * * * *



It has been suggested that the photograph of our President be given in our Bulletin so that those unable to attend our reunions, might at least visualize the one chosen to preside over the affairs of the Association for another two years.

Ernest H. Holton was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., February 5, 1874, and was educated in the Public Schools of that city. He started his business career at the age of 18, and at the present time is President of Holton & Adams, Inc., of New York City.

Affiliations include membership in the Masonic Fraternity, being a member of Hyatt Lodge, #205, F. & A. M., and of Kismet Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S. Patriotic affiliations include membership in the Sons of the Revolution, State of New York, and Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford, in Connecticut.

* * * * *

In the Cemetery at Mount Hermon the following epitaph appears on the stone of George Lucius Holton (Died, October 6, 1864):-

Praise the Lord, and stick to it.

Amen, Amen, Amen.

Your President was led to remark that for his epitaph, he would paraphrase it, as follows:-

Join the Holton Family Association, and stick to it.

Amen, Amen, Amen.

* * * * *

On another page of this Bulletin reference was made to the Memorial to Deacon William Holton, in Northampton Cemetery, the plan being in charge of a Committee of which J. Herbert Holton, of Bridgeport is Chairman. This Committee after due deliberation has decided upon a boulder, and with great foresightedness the Chairman in his report for the Committee, presented to the meeting a sketch which we have endeavored to reproduce in this



Bulletin. This boulder weighs two tons, and to support it will require

a concrete base five feet deep. On its face will be a polished surface upon which will be cut the names of Deacon William and his

wife, together with suitable data. The entire cost will be \$150.00, of which only about one-half has been subscribed. These contributions represent but a small part of our membership, and it has been figured out that if those who have not contributed will donate but 50 cents apiece, the work can be carried to completion, and the Committee have the satisfaction, which they deserve, of seeing their efforts carried to completion. Contributions should be sent to J. Herbert Holton, 173 Beechmont Ave., Bridgeport, Conn.

* * * * *

The Association is fortunate in having George Alanson Holton of Mount Vernon, N. Y., as its First Vice-President. A graduate of Mount Hermon School, he has absorbed both by birth and training, those traditions connected with New England, and our ancestors.

He has a charming wife, and five year old son, and brings to this office the vigor of the young man that he is. Working, as he promises to, in close co-operation with his fellow officers, will enable him to assume the Presidency with the assurance and understanding necessary to carry on the affairs of the Association successfully.

* * * * *

Mrs. Ella Alexander of Worcester, Massachusetts, was the oldest member present. Ninety-one years of age, our cousin has missed only one Reunion since the organization of the Association in 1924.

* * * * *

Your Secretary would appreciate it if anyone noting errors in names and addresses would report it to her. Also she would like notices of illnesses and deaths. Unless you tell her, she has no way of knowing.

Elsie F. Packer

Elsie F. Packer,
Secretary.



JAN 75

N. MANCHESTER,
INDIANA

